



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To provide for the appointment of the Architect of the Capitol, and for  
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE) introduced the following bill; which  
was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To provide for the appointment of the Architect of the  
Capitol, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Architect of the Capitol  
5 Appointment Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPOINTMENT AND TERM OF SERVICE OF ARCHI-**  
7 **TECT OF THE CAPITOL.**

8 (a) APPOINTMENT.—The Architect of the Capitol  
9 shall be appointed, without regard to political affiliation

1 and solely on the basis of fitness to perform the duties  
2 of the office, upon a majority vote of a congressional com-  
3 mission (referred to in this section as the “commission”)  
4 consisting of the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
5 the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leaders of  
6 the House of Representatives and Senate, the chair and  
7 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-  
8 tions of the House of Representatives, the chairman and  
9 ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropria-  
10 tions of the Senate, the chair and ranking minority mem-  
11 ber of the Committee on House Administration of the  
12 House of Representatives, and the chairman and ranking  
13 minority member of the Committee on Rules and Adminis-  
14 tration of the Senate.

15 (b) TERM OF SERVICE.—The Architect of the Capitol  
16 shall be appointed for a term of 10 years and, upon a  
17 majority vote of the members of the commission, may be  
18 reappointed for additional 10-year terms.

19 (c) REMOVAL.—The Architect of the Capitol may be  
20 removed from office at any time upon a majority vote of  
21 the members of the commission.

22 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) Section 319 of the Legislative Branch Ap-  
24 propriations Act, 1990 (2 U.S.C. 1801) is repealed.

1           (2) The matter under the heading “FOR THE  
2       CAPITOL:” under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF  
3       THE INTERIOR.” of the Act of February 14, 1902  
4       (32 Stat. 19, chapter 17; incorporated in 2 U.S.C.  
5       1811) is amended by striking “, and he shall be ap-  
6       pointed by the President”.

7       (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and the amend-  
8       ments made by this section, shall apply with respect to  
9       appointments made on or after the date of enactment of  
10      this Act.

11   **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE**  
12                   **CAPITOL; VACANCY IN ARCHITECT OR DEP-**  
13                   **UTY ARCHITECT.**

14       Section 1203 of title I of division H of the Consoli-  
15      dated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (2 U.S.C. 1805)  
16      is amended—

17           (1) in subsection (a)—

18                   (A) by inserting “(in this section referred  
19                   to as the ‘Architect’)” after “The Architect of  
20                   the Capitol”; and

21                   (B) by inserting “(in this section referred  
22                   to as the ‘Deputy Architect’)” after “Deputy  
23                   Architect of the Capitol”;

24           (2) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
25      section (c);

1           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
2       lowing:

3       “(b) DEADLINE.—The Architect shall appoint a Dep-  
4       uty Architect under subsection (a) not later than 120 days  
5       after—

6           “(1) the date on which the Architect is ap-  
7       pointed under section 2 of the Architect of the Cap-  
8       itol Appointment Act of 2023, if there is no Deputy  
9       Architect on the date of the appointment; or

10          “(2) the date on which a vacancy arises in the  
11       office of the Deputy Architect.”;

12          (4) in subsection (c), as so redesignated, by  
13       striking “of the Capitol” each place it appears; and

14          (5) by adding at the end the following:

15       “(d) FAILURE TO APPOINT.—If the Architect does  
16       not appoint a Deputy Architect on or before the applicable  
17       date specified in subsection (b), the congressional commis-  
18       sion described in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Cap-  
19       itol Appointment Act of 2023 shall appoint the Deputy  
20       Architect by a majority vote of the members of the com-  
21       mission.

22       “(e) NOTIFICATION.—If the position of Deputy Ar-  
23       chitect becomes vacant, the Architect shall immediately  
24       notify the members of the congressional commission de-

1 scribed in section 2(a) of the Architect of the Capitol Ap-  
2 pointment Act of 2023.”.

3 **SEC. 4. DEPUTY ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL TO SERVE AS**  
4 **ACTING IN CASE OF ABSENCE, DISABILITY,**  
5 **OR VACANCY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Deputy Architect of the Cap-  
7 itol (in this section referred to as the “Deputy Architect”)  
8 shall act as Architect of the Capitol (in this section re-  
9 ferred to as the “Architect”) if the Architect is absent or  
10 disabled or there is no Architect.

11 (b) ABSENCE, DISABILITY, OR VACANCY IN OFFICE  
12 OF DEPUTY ARCHITECT.—For purposes of subsection (a),  
13 if the Deputy Architect is also absent or disabled or there  
14 is no Deputy Architect, the congressional commission de-  
15 scribed in section 2(a) shall designate, by a majority vote  
16 of the members of the commission, an individual to serve  
17 as acting Architect until—

18 (1) the end of the absence or disability of the  
19 Architect or the Deputy Architect; or

20 (2) in the case of vacancies in both positions,  
21 an Architect has been appointed under section 2(a)  
22 of this Act.

23 (c) AUTHORITY.—An officer serving as acting Archi-  
24 tect under subsection (a) or (b) shall perform all the duties  
25 and exercise all the authorities of the Architect, including

1 the authority to delegate the duties and authorities of the  
2 Architect in accordance with the matter under the heading  
3 “OFFICE OF THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under  
4 the heading “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the  
5 Legislative Appropriation Act, 1956 (2 U.S.C. 1803).

6 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The matter under  
7 the heading “SALARIES” under the heading “OFFICE OF  
8 THE ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” under the heading  
9 “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL” of the Legislative  
10 Branch Appropriation Act, 1971 (2 U.S.C. 1804) is  
11 amended by striking “: *Provided*,” and all that follows  
12 through “no Architect”.